(b) The backward districts have been identified on the basis of an index of backwardness for the Non-Special Category States and Assam. For the remaining Special Category States, the identification has been made on the recommendation of the State Government. The extremist affected districts covered under the scheme have been identified keeping in view the intensity of left wing extremist violence over a period of five years.

(c) Five districts of Orissa, namely, two backward districts o Keonjhar and Sundargarh and three extremist affected districts of Ganjam, Gajapati and Mayurbhanj have been coverd under the sheme. The District Plans of Ganjam and Mayurbhanj districts have been approved and the funds have already started flowing to these districts. The District Plans of Gajapati, Keonjhar and Sundargarh districts are to be considered for approval in the next meeting of the Empowered Committee on Rashtriya Sam Vikas Yojana.

Floating Seismic Monitoring Vessel

403. SHRI K. RAMA MOHANA RAO: Will the MINISTER OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government suggested Australia, USA, Japan and the UN for setting up of a floating seismic monitoring vessel;

(b) if so, the reaction from the above countries and the UN; and

(c) whether it is also a fact that Australia and USA have expressed some reservation on this suggestions?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL): (a) No, Sir. No floating seismic monitoring vessels is proposed to be set up.

(b) and (c) Does not arise.

Early warning for Tsunami waves

†404. SHRI ABU ASIM AZMI: Will the MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Meteorological Department of India was aware of Tsunami in advance in Indian ocean on 25-26 December, 2004;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(b) if so, the action taken by Government to warm public regarding the same;

(c) whether equipments for forecasting the Tsunami have been installed in India;

(d) if not, the reasons therefore; and

(e) whether Tsunami affected persons were warned again about likelihood Tsunami within a week, if so, the basis of such informations?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) No equipments for forecasting the Tsunami have been installed in India so far.

(d) No equipments were installed for forecasting the Tsunami in the Indian Ocean since Tsunamis are a rare phenomenon in this region. However, consequent to the recent Tsunami, Government has decided to setup a Tsunami early warning system in the Indian Ocean and and system will take approximately $2^1/_2$ years for becoming fully operational.

(e) Immediately after Tsunami some individuals were seen to be forewarning people of the likelihood of another Tsunami. In light of the overall situation Government, as a precautionary measure, warned the people to stay away from the coastal areas. The basis of such a warning was a message predicting another earthquake and Tsunami in the Indian Ocean which was duly considered at the inter-ministerial meeting and it was decided that people should be advised to keep away from the coastal areas.

Plan allocation for Scientific Department

405. SHRI T.T.V. DHINAKARAN: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that plan allocation for Scientific Departments have doubled during the tenth plan;

(b) if so, the details thereof;